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### STANDARD VARIETIES OF CHICKENS.

(By Geo. E. Howard.)

There are 104 standard and a large number of non-standard varieties of chickens raised in this country. The standard varieties are divided as follows:

1. American class: Barred, White and Buff Plymouth Rocks—Silver Golden, White, Buff, and Columbian Wyandottes; Black, Partridge, Silver penciled Black and Mottled Javas; Rose-comb Dominiques; single-comb and Rose-comb Rhode Island Reds, and Pea-comb Buckeyes.

2. Asiatic class: Light and Dark Brahmas; Buff, Partridge, White and Black Cochins; Black and White Langshans.

3. Mediterranean class: Single comb Brown, rose comb Brown, Single comb White, Rose comb White, Single comb Buff, Rose comb Buff, Single comb Black, and Silver Duck wing Leghorns; Single comb Black, Rose comb Black, and Single comb White Minorcas; White faced Black Spanish; Blue Andalusians, and Mottled Anconas.

4. English class: White, Silver Gray and Colored Dorkings; Rose comb Redcaps, Single comb Buff, Single comb Black and Single comb White Orpingtons.

5. Polish class: White crested Black, Bearded Golden, Bearded Silver, Bearded White, Buff laced, Non-bearded Golden, Non-bearded Silver and Non-bearded White Polish.

6. Dutch class: Golden spangled, Silver spangled, Golden penciled, Silver penciled, White, and Black Hamburgs.

7. Fernch class: Mottled Houdans, Black Crevecoeurs, and Black La Fleche.

8. Game and Game Bantam class: Black breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden Duck wing, Silver Duck wing, Red Pyle, White, Black and Birchen Games and the same varieties for Game Bantams.

9. Oriental Game and Bantam class: Cornish and White Indians, Black Sumatras, Black breasted Red Malays, and Black breasted Red Malay Bantams.

10. Ornamental Bantam class: Golden and Silver Sebrights; Rose comb White and Rose comb Black; Rotted White; Light and Dark Brahmas, Buff, Partridge, White and Black Cochins, Black Tailed, White and Black Japanese; Bearded White, Buff laced and Non-bearded Polish.

11. Miscellaneous class: White Silkies, White Sultans, and Frizzles.

For practical purposes the above eleven classes may be grouped into four general classes as follows:

1. The general purpose breeds—The American class, the Orpingtons and the Houdans.

2. The meat or table breeds—The Asiatic class, the Dorkings and the Indian Games.

3. The egg breeds: The Mediterranean class the Dutch class and the Redcaps.

4. The ornamental breeds: The Polish, the Crevecoeurs and La Fleche, the Game and Game Bantam class, the Oriental Game and Bantam class (except the Indians), the Ornamental Bantam class, and the miscellaneous class.

Class 1—American: Plymouth Rocks: The Plymouth Rock is the most popular of all breeds of poultry as a general purpose fowl. The Barred variety is the best known, and its history dates back over a quarter of a century. Various breeds were used in its making, the belief being general that it originally came from a cross between the American Dominique and the Black Java. It has also been shown that the Light Brahma, Dark Brahma and Pit Game have been used in its making.

The Barred Plymouth Rock is of a grayish white color, each feather regularly crossed by narrow, parallel bars of dark blue-black running in distinct lines throughout the entire length of the feather and showing on the down, or under color of the feathers. The barring is somewhat smaller on the hackle and saddle feathers than on other parts of the body. A medium sized bird with a broad, full breast, a rather long and broad body, medium sized wings that fold gracefully, the wing fronts being well covered by the breast feathers and the wing points by the saddle feathers; a moderately large head, ornamented with an upright bright red comb and wattles; a large bright red or bay eye, and yellow beak, shanks and toes places the picture before us.

For the farmer or market poultryman these fowls are favorites, being of medium size, well proportioned, with a deep, full breast, making a most admirable bird for market purposes. They are hardy, mature early, and make excellent broilers when from 8 to 12 weeks old. They are good layers the year round, and in winter lay exceptionally well. Their eggs are brown in color and average 8 to a pound. They are good sitters and excellent mothers.

The barred Plymouth Rock, besides being a practical fowl, is also one of the most sought after by fanciers. No class is better filled at the average poultry show of the country. The graceful figure, upright carriage and active nature endear it to all as a fancier's fowl. It requires much skill to breed for color, and two matings are generally used. An established rule for mating for cockerels is to use a standard color male with medium dark females, and for pullets to use medium light male and standard color females. The double mating is resorted to by many, yet rare specimens have been produced from single matings.

The characteristics of this breed are noticeable in other varieties of Plymouth Rocks, excepting that of color. The size, shape, general outlines and qualities are the same in the other varieties as in the barred. The White Plymouth Rock is pure white in plumage throughout, and the Buff variety is a clear golden buff, uniform in shade. The buff should extend to the under color as much as possible—the deeper the better.

The standard weight of cocks is 9 1/2 pounds; hens, 7 1/2 pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; pullets, 6 1/2 pounds.

Houston—Antonio Bua, a shoemaker, while attempting to catch a cat yesterday fell and jarred a pistol from his pocket. The weapon was discharged, the load entering Bua's thigh. There is little hope for his recovery.

Rockport—Steve McCarty, a negro boy, was shot and instantly killed here yesterday by the accidental discharge of a gun while hunting.

Houston—A general exodus of officials from the Sap is looked for. A rumor is current that a good many minor officials have been offered better positions by the Southern Pacific.

Brady—Grover Kirk was thrown from his horse and badly injured. Mr. Kirk is a young man recently married.

Gainesville—While out hunting this afternoon with a companion, Austin Smith, a boy 17 years old, residing on North Tyler street, was seriously wounded with a shotgun, the full charge of shot taking effect in his hip, which tore it almost from the body. Young Smith was taken to the sanitarium, where physicians pronounced him to be in a precarious condition. The discharge of the gun was accidental.

Galveston—The second case of yellow fever which was brought here on the fruit steamer Crispin proved fatal today. Third Officer Pritchard succumbed to the malady. Third En-

signer Davis died the day before. No more cases have developed.

### GAUTHIER'S COOP AND RUN.

Above is given a cut as a coop and run invented and patented by Wylie Gauthier. Soon he will begin the manufacture of the invention and will put it on the market.

The main point, and a most important one, to commend it to poultry growers, is detachable coops, which may be carried into a warm room when necessary, and so the necessity of heating by means of an oil lamp be obviated. This is both an economy and a convenience. The coop may be scalded out with hot water readily, also, and any vermin killed. Its simplicity of structure permits this. A coop that needs no heating, is not complicated, can be cleaned easily, and, together with the run, is not expensive, is certainly a desirable thing for poultrymen, and the invention of Mr. Gauthier is a valuable contribution to poultry growing.

The man who does not like hens had better not try to keep them. He will not do well by them, and they can not do well for him.

Sometimes bread will get so stale and hard that it cannot be well used in the house. The hens will use it to the best possible advantage. Don't waste it; give it to them.

The color of a hen often makes us a friend to her. If we like white ones best, they are the ones we should keep. So with the black ones and the brown ones.

### TO TELL AGE OF EGGS.

According to the "Baecker and Konditor Zeiting," the age of an egg is now discovered by immersing it in a solution of salt containing about 8 ounces to the pint. When the salt has thoroughly dissolved the egg to be tested is dropped gently into the glass containing the solution. If the egg is only one day old it sinks immediately to the bottom, if three days old it sinks just below the surface only, and if from five days and upwards it floats.

Another process has just been awarded a medal in Saxony by the National Society of Poultry Breeders and is described in a German contemporary. It is well known that the air cavity at the blunt end of the egg enlarges as the age of the egg increases. Consequently if the egg be placed in a solution similar to the one described it will have increasing tendency to float with the long axis vertical. A scale of angles is placed at the back of the vessel, and from the inclination of the egg to the horizontal the age can be gauged almost to a day. A new laid egg lies horizontally at the bottom of the vessel. When three to five days old the egg raises itself from the horizontal so that its two long axes make an angle of about 20 degrees with the horizontal. At eight days this angle increases to about 45 degrees, at fourteen it is 60 degrees, at about three weeks it is about 75 degrees, while after four weeks it stands upright on the pointed end.

I MOUNT Deer and Wild Animal heads (been doing it for 20 years) and dress skins for rug purposes. F. Hardmann, 218 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, Texas.

BLESSING PHOTO SUPPLY CO., 315 Houston St., Ft. Worth, Texas, sell Kodaks, films and all supplies. Develop and finish for amateurs. Prices on application. Mail orders solicited.

SEED OATS—Lawson's Improved Red Winter Rust Proof Seed Oats are the best in the world to sow in January and February. They are strong, vigorous, grow rapidly, mature early. Recleaned, graded, not one ounce of trash in 100 bushels. Every sack tagged with my trademark. You will never regret buying these oats. Write for samples and further information. O. P. Lawson, McGregor, Texas.

MEBANE Cotton Seed for Sale—37 to 41 per cent lint. Will make 2 to 13 dollars per bale more than common cotton. One to 25 bu. at 75c, 30 to 100 bu. at 65c. B. M. Davis, Lockhart, Texas.

QUARTER HORSES—Stallions for sale. Wm. Anson, Head of the River ranch, Christoval, near San Angelo, Texas.

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